

# The Banner

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## Rainey holds meeting to discuss abortion

by Vicki McCoy

Staff Writer

Asheville residents gathered Jan. 31 in the Buncombe County Courthouse to debate the issue of abortion.

Dr. Gene Rainey, UNCA professor and chairman of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners, introduced the debate, saying it was the first of a series of town meetings on issues currently facing Buncombe County.

"We may not change any minds on this issue, but we may learn to respect each other more," Rainey said as he introduced the panelists.

Before the debate began, supporters of both sides of the abortion issue displayed literature, bumper stickers and pins in the hallway outside the courtroom. Inside, the room was divided, with the pro-life group seated on the left and the pro-choice group seated on the right. About two hundred people attended the meeting.

The debate featured twelve panelists, who each gave a brief statement about their position concerning the abortion issue. The panelists were chosen based on their involvement in either the pro-life or pro-choice movements.

Ileana Grams, associate professor of philosophy at UNCA, compared the consequences of giving birth to an unwanted or handicapped child to having

an abortion. Grams asked the audience to consider which would suffer more.

Rachel Stein, professor at UNCA, also argued for the pro-choice side of the issue. According to Stein, one out of every four children will be reared in poverty. "They are doomed to lives of poverty, neglect and abuse," Stein said.

The Rev. James K. Solari spoke for the pro-life group on the biblical teachings of the right to life. Solari said that life was a right given to man and women from God.

Solari also said that abortion is murder in the eyes of God. "If you can abort a fetus, then you might as well be able to kill a child at any time in its life," Solari said.

Brinton Wright, president of the North Carolina Right-To-Life organization, said he expected the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the decision of Roe vs. Wade, which legalized abortion. The 1973 court case legalized abortion in all cases. According to the Supreme Court, he said, unborn children do not have legal personhood.

The pro-choice activists defended legalized abortion because of the method of illegal abortions performed before Roe vs. Wade. Dr.

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Staff Photo--Stacey Higdon

Workers (left) cut down a tree in preparation for construction on the Asheville Graduate Center.



Staff Photo--Susan Dryman

Chancellor David Brown breaks ground at the construction site.

## Underdog sponsors Amnesty presentation

by Michael Molini

Staff Writer

Tonight at 7 p.m. in Lipinsky Auditorium, Underdog Productions is sponsoring a multi-media presentation featuring Amnesty International.

Guest lecturer Steve Herrick has held positions as National Group Coordinator, Southern Program Coordinator and Regional Coordinator for Amnesty over the years.

Also a former educator, Herrick was recently honored with praise from his peers at an Amnesty meeting in Atlanta, in recognition of his work with the southern region. He will speak this evening on behalf of the organization, its global significance and purpose, and its past achievements and future goals.

Amnesty International is a worldwide, human rights movement. Founded in 1961, the organization has worked hard under the creed that no government should deny any individual his or her basic human rights. It has attempted to secure and protect the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" put forth by the United Nations over forty years ago.

The Declaration calls upon

"every individual and every social organization" to promote a universal respect for all human rights. This task has directed Amnesty's efforts all around the world. The organization attained high recognition for its dedication and performance when it was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize.

Specifically, Amnesty has worked on behalf of over 25,000 "prisoners of conscience" -- those imprisoned because of their beliefs, color, sex, ethnic origin, or religion. The only exception are people who have used or have advocated the use of violence in their purpose.

Amnesty has worked to secure and protect fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners. It has also tried to end all forms of torture and execution.

During the last few years, Amnesty International's pleas have fallen onto the ears of pop music fans both in the United States and overseas.

Rock performers such as the Police, U2, Peter Gabriel, Bruce Springsteen, Tracy Chapman, Sting, Stanley Jordan and Lou Reed have participated in various tours to promote Amnesty. Last

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## Construction begins on graduate center

by Melissa Church

Staff Writer

The latest project on the growing UNCA campus is the construction of the Asheville Graduate Center between Phillips Hall and Lipinsky Hall.

This graduate center, which is run by the University of North Carolina, will serve students enrolled in graduate programs through different UNC system universities.

The addition of this building will provide a new opportunity for the graduate center. "With the exception of N.C. State's program, it will be the first time in the history of the graduate center that we've been able to have

all the graduate programs here in one place," Dr. Gene McDowell, director of the Asheville Graduate Center, said. "I think that's important. For the first time in five years we can all be together in one place, and interact better."

Most of the graduate programs offered are completed on the UNCA campus, McDowell said. "However, some do require a little bit of study on their home campus. But it's usually not very much," McDowell said.

Also, the graduate degrees that are awarded here are awarded by the universities that brought the program

here. "For example, if you're in the Chapel Hill Social Work program, the degree that you get comes from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill," McDowell said.

McDowell said one major advantage and one major disadvantage to the construction of this building was the fact that the UNCA campus does not have enough classrooms or faculty office space. "On Monday through Thursday nights on this campus, every classroom is utilized. We're so crowded that the graduate center, in addition to using all the classrooms that they let us use here, we go downtown

and rent space," McDowell said.

Six colleges offer graduate programs on the UNCA campus. These colleges are Appalachian State, N.C. State, UNC Chapel Hill, UNC Greensboro, UNC Charlotte and Western Carolina.

"What this is really going to provide for the graduate center and for the university ... is much needed faculty offices and classrooms," McDowell said.

The construction of this new building has closed off two student parking lots. "It is a problem," McDowell said. "In

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## Basketball team surprises late-night swim

by Michael Gouge

Assistant News Editor

The women's basketball team returned from a game Saturday night to find as many as ten people, in various stages of dress, swimming in the pool.

"It scared us. We were coming in so late, about 1:30 a.m., and we saw people in the pool," said Head Coach Mary Ann Myers, coach of UNCA women's basketball.

Myers said that of the ten or so swimmers, "Not all were naked. I saw a couple of them yanking on their

clothes. Most of them were wearing their underwear."

Myers said despite the comedy of the situation it could have turned into a serious situation. "It's really dangerous. I'm sure they were only out for a good time but really it's scary. A drowning could have occurred and there was no one around to help them."

Myers said despite the dangers of an accidental drowning, Justice Center has also been the scene of break-ins. "We've had so much stuff stolen, we are a prime target

down here." Myers said she was concerned that with the recent break-ins, the swimmers could have walked into a dangerous situation.

Security Chief Charles Carreno said he has "identified seven people (in the pool incident). Two were UNCA students and two others were friends of theirs."

"We're still working on how they got in," he added. Carreno said there were items missing from the gym and the swimmers were "unauthorized to be in the building." Carreno refrained

from further comment, saying that security is still looking into the incident.

Myers said that upon discovering the swimmers, "half of them ran and the other half stayed." The ones that left got into their cars while members of the basketball team got down their tag numbers, Myers said. Security then stopped the vehicles before they left campus, according to Carreno.